

## Message Text

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ACTION MMO-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 IO-13 ISO-00 EB-08 AID-05

TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 LAB-04

SIL-01 /068 W

-----040885 080959Z /11

R 080700Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6133

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

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PARIS FOR UNESCO

ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECRP, EAID, BA

SUBJECT: CERP 208: EVALUATION OF UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: BAHRAIN

1. SUMMARY. THE MODERATE BUT WELL-MANAGED UNDP PROGRAM IN BAHRAIN DIMINISHED SOMEWHAT WITH REGARD TO NUMBERS OF EXPERTS IN COUNTRY DURING 1977 BUT ALL PROGRAMS REPORTED IN THE PAST CONTINUE. THE REGIONAL FISHERIES STUDY AND HOTEL AND CATERING PROJECTS ARE THE LARGEST IN TERMS OF PERSONNEL. OTHERS ARE AN INDUSTRIAL ADVISOR, NURSING ADVISOR AND TWO VOCATIONAL TRAINING ADVISORS. THE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE PROJECT OF UNESCO IS STILL BEING NEGOTIATED WITH THE GOB. END SUMMARY.

2. THE BAHRAIN OFFICE OF UNDP APPEARS TO BE VERY WELL-MANAGED WITH THE RESREP EARNING A REPUTATION FOR QUIET COMPETENCE. THE PERMANENT STAFF INCLUDES AN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, A JUNIOR PROGRAM OFFICER SUPPORTED BY THE FRG, A UN VOLUNTEER AND FIVE  
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PROGRAM AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF. THE PROJECTS STAFF INCLUDES

AN INDUSTRIAL ADVISOR, ONE NURSING ADVISOR (MATERNITY), TWO VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROJECTS, SIX STATIONED IN BAHRAIN FOR THE REGIONAL FISHERIES PROJECT AND THREE WITH THE HOTEL AND CATERING SCHOOL. THERE IS ONE DIRECT KOREAN GOVERNMENT FINANCED ADVISOR WORKING THROUGH UNDP WITH VOCATIONAL TRAINING.

3. THE LARGEST LOCAL PROGRAM IN TERMS OF FUNDS AND PERSONNEL IS THE REGIONAL FISHERIES STUDY. THIS COMBINES RESEARCH INTO VARIETIES AVAILABLE, CATCH TECHNIQUES, THE FISHING AREAS. STATIONED IN BAHRAIN ARE ONE MASTER, TWO BIOLOGISTS, AN ACPUSITCS ENGINEER, A CAPTAIN AND A MARINE ENGINEER. THIS PROJECT IS NOT DIRECTED FROM BAHRAIN UNDP, BUT THE LOCAL OFFICE PROVIDES SUPPORT. WHILE THE SUCCESS OF THE PROJECT CANNOT BE FULLY ASSESSED UNTIL COMPLETED, THE REPORT IS AVAILABLE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT HAVE BEGUN TO ACT UPON RECOMMENDATIONS, THOSE WITH WHOM EMBOFFS HAVE TALKED BELIEVED THAT THE STUDY WILL MAKE SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS. CERTAINLY ANY PROJECT LIKELY TO AUGMENT FOOD SUPPLY OR EXPORTS FROM THIS NON-AGRICULTURAL, ONE-PRODUCT AREA IS WORTHY OF SUPPORT.

4. THE HOTEL AND CATERING SCHOOL WHICH IS OPERATED BY ILO THROUGH UNDP IS AGAIN ON THE UPSWING. LAST YEAR THE EMBASSY REPORTED THE ILO AND UNDP WERE NEGOTIATING A WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PROGRAM AND WE QUESTIONED ANY FURTHER SUPPORT. INSTEAD OF DROPPING THE PROGRAM THE UNDP AND ILO DECIDED TO REORGANIZE THE PROGRAM FOR A FURTHER TEST AFTER THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES ASSURED MUCH BETTER SUPPORT. THERE ARE NOW ABOUT 40 STUDENTS IN THE PROGRAM FROM SAUDI ARABIA, OMAN, UAE AND BAHRAIN (QATAR DROPPED OUT). BAHRAIN IS MAKING EVERY ATTEMPT TO MAKE THE PROGRAM OFFICIALLY REGIONAL WITH FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE OTHER PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES. THE HOTEL AND CATERING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MANAGEMENT COURSE RUNS TWO YEARS WITH PERIODIC ADDITIONAL SHORT COURSES IN FRONT OFFICE, HOUSEKEEPING, COOKING AND RESTAURANT AND BEVERAGE. THE SCHOOL HAS NOW OPENED A CUNCHEON RESTAURANT TO PROVIDE TRAINEES SOME PRACTIICAL EXPERIENCE AND IS STEADILY GAINING NEEDED PUBLICITY THROUGH NEWS RELEASES AND VIP VISITORS. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT WITH THE NEW STRUCTURE AND MUCH IMPROVED GOB SUPPORT THE PROJECT NOW DESERVES UN SUPPORT. THE BAHRAIN EFFORT TO MAKE THE SCHOOL REGIONAL SHOULD BE FULLY SUPPORTED BY OTHERS IN AN ATTEMPT TO GAIN SOME COMMITMENTS BEFORE SAUDI ARABIA OPENS ITS OWN HOTEL SCHOOL.

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5. THE INDUSTRIAL ADVISOR, NURSING ADVISOR AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING ADVISORS ARE ALL OPERATING WELL AND MAKING VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS IN KEY SECTORS. THE INDUSTRIAL ADVISOR IS WORKING WITH OUR OWN AID-CONTRACT SMALL INDUSTRIES ADVISOR AND THEY HAVE SYSTEMATIZED THE REVIEW OF NEW INDUSTRY PROPOSALS AND DEVELOPED REGULAR MEETINGS WITH POTENTIAL PRIVATE ENTREPRENEURS TO FACILITATE RATIONAL DECISIONS ON NEW VENTURES. SEVERAL SMALL NEW INDUSTRIES ARE LIKELY TO RESULT. THE ONLY PROBLEM IN THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING AREA IS THAT MANY OF THE NEWLY GRADUATED TRAINEES IMMEDIATELY DEPART FOR HIGHER WAGES IN SAUDI ARABIA THAN BAHRAIN CAN OFFER WHILE LOCAL NEEDS ARE MET WITH IMPORTED WORKERS FROM THE SUBCONTINENT. WHILE BAHRAIN WOULD PREFER FOR POLITICAL AND SOCIAL REASONS TO RETAIN ITS OWN WORKERS, IT REALIZES THAT EACH SUCH EXCHANGE IS A BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PLUS FOR ITSELF AND IT HAS NO DESIRE TO ATTEMPT TO CONTROL MOVEMENT OF ITS WORKERS. FURTHER, THE GOB KNOWS THAT ONCE THE SAUDI BOOM BEGINS TO WORK ITSELF OUT, THESE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MEN WILL BE RETURNING WITH MUCH MORE EXPERIENCE TO REPLACE EXPATS IN BAHRAIN.

6. IT HAS BEEN VERY DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE THE STATUS OF THE PROJECT TO UPGRADE THE GULF TECHNICAL COLLEGE AND TEACHERS TRAINING COLLEGE INTO A UNIVERSITY LEVEL INSTITUTION WITH UNDP/UNESCO SUPPORT. THE UNDERSECRETARY OF EDUCATION TOLD OUR PAO THAT UNESCO HAS PROVIDED THE GOB WITH THREE NOMINEES (INCLUDING AN EGYPTIAN BORN AMCIT) FOR THE POSITION OF VICE CHANCELLOR. ONE IS TO BE CHOSEN THIS SUMMER TO BEGIN WORK IN SEPTEMBER. THE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE WILL BE INAUGURATED

THIS COMING SCHOOL YEAR BUT WILL MERELY CONTINUE THE PRESENT  
TWO YEADTEACHERS COURSE. TWO ADDITIONAL YEARS WILL BE  
ADDED IN 1980/81.

7. ON THE OTHER HAND UNDP OFFICIALS DO NOT VIEW THE PROJECT  
AS THAT FAR ALONG. THEY STATE THAT PROGRAM AGREEMENT NEGOTIA-  
TIONS HAVE NOT BEEN COMPLETED WITH THE GOB. THE EMBASSY  
UNDERSTANDS THAT UNESCO SUPPORTS BETTER COORDINATION OF THE  
PLANS OF

CENTRALGULF COUNTRIES TO DEVELOP UNIVERSITY LEVEL  
INSTITUTIONS WITH AN OPEN INTERCHANGE OF STUDENTS AND  
FUNCTIONAL SPECIALIZATION AT EACH SUCH SCHOOL. UNESCO IS  
ALSO CONCERNED WITH THE LACK OF DATA ON BAHRAIN'S FUTURE MAN-  
POWER REQUIREMENTS AS A BASIS FOR PLANNING HIGHER EDUCATION.  
BAHRAIN DOES NOT WISH TO DELAY FOR THE MANPOWER STUDY NOR FOR  
GULF COORDINATION. THE BRITISH EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND OF  
MANY OF THE GOB EDUCATION LEADERS INCLINE THEM TOWARD EMPHASIZ-  
ING A BROAD LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE WITH THE MORE TECHNICAL  
FIELDS ADDED LATER.

8. THE EMBASSY WOULD FIND USEFUL A READING ON THE ABOVE  
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FROM UNESCO PARIS, INCLUDING SOME SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS WITH  
ALL THE GULF COUNTRIES ON THE SUBJECT OF UNIVERSITY LEVEL  
EDUCATION. WHILE WE WOULD NOT RECOMMEND DELAY OF THE BAHRAIN  
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE PROJECT AT THIS LATE DATE, THE USG SHOULD  
SUPPORT ANY UNESCO EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE GULF-WIDE COORDINATION  
OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND UNIVERSITY DEVELOPMENT BASED UPON  
FUTURE MANPOWER PROJECTON.  
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